



Recycle This! Newsletter

Newsletter of the Maine State Planning Office, Waste Management & Recycling Program * September 2003

Maine Recycles Week 2003

Maine Recycles Week 2003 Preparation Under Way

November 8 to 15 is Maine Recycles Week and preparation is well on its way. The 2003 MRW Steering Committee gave the final okay for this year's poster as the campaign seemed to gear up a notch with July's meeting. The educational portion, school programs, and poster competition will be similar to past years – the registration form can be found in this newsletter. The theme for MRW 2003 is **"Recycle! It's not new, but it is right to do."** When the theme was selected, it seemed to reflect concerns of the committee. *(Continued on page 3)*

Phish Concert Recycling Better than Expected

For the third time in six years, a Phish Concert was held in Limestone, Maine. The Loring site came alive with faithful Phish followers. The big bash brought an estimated 70,000 to the base and with it the logistics to feed and support more than the Air Force personnel that were once permanently stationed there.

Rather than as AF base, the facilities now appeared as a huge stage fabricated for the group's tour and what became Maine's largest community for a weekend.

With so many gathered together in such an atmosphere, all of the associated waste management problems were present as well. Phish favors a firm from Portsmouth, NH, to manage the waste stream in an environmentally attuned manner. Clean Vibes www.cleavibes.com has not only supported the last two concerts in Maine but also several others around the country. Working with about a hundred volunteers recruited from the attending masses, 60,000 trash bags and 12,000 latex gloves were used and an estimated 300 to 400 tons of garbage were hauled away.

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Transfer Station Wedding

On Labor Day September 1st two employees of the Bethel-Hanover-Newry transfer station exchanged wedding vows. As far as we know, this is the first time two transfer station employees have met and married at work. That's right, as many of you may have already heard, the employees got married at the transfer station!

Transfer Station Manager David Hart and part-time employee Rockie Graham tied the knot at work in front of 250 people. Family, friends, town employees, area recycling members, and dozens of journalists overwhelmed the small transfer station.



It was a wonderful ceremony. The facility was clean, the grass was freshly mowed, and the sun was shining. The couple originally planned to arrive at the facility via the bucket of the town owned bucket loader but OSHA and the Department of Labor recommended they find alternative transportation.

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Bethel Wedding (cont'd from page 1)

So the couple arrived in Town Manager Scott Cole's shiny green Cadillac. The ceremony took place in front of a dozen new and recently refurbished Oxford County Recycling containers.

The reception was even more impressive. It was held under a tent with the Sunday River Ski Resort as the backdrop. Dinner was potluck and the choices went on forever. The couple did not ask for gifts. They simply wanted returnable cans and bottles to help pay for their honeymoon. SPO donated three clear trash bags full of returnables, accompanied by a congratulatory letter from the Director.

This couple pulled off a flawless wedding. As soon as the couple arrived at the facility, the guests seemed to have forgotten they were even at the transfer station because all eyes turned to the bride and groom. Since David and Rockie pulled off an absolutely wonderful ceremony, the idea of your town's transfer station employees tying the knot at work should never be ruled out. Returnable bottles and cans as well as cash donations can still be dropped off at the Bethel transfer station on Route 2 in Bethel. More pictures are available at www.recyclemaine.com/wedding



Singer Sam Chapman preforms in front of nearly 250 at the Bethel, Newry, Hanover Transfer Station.

The Trash Bin of Your Heart (by Sam Chapman)

*I hope you won't dump me when we marry
Or toss me out like a bag of trash
I hope you have recycled your mixed feelings
I wouldn't want our burning love to turn to ash*

*The day I met you down at the transfer station
All the rubbish of my past just disappeared
I knew then that I wanted you forever
At a time of your disposal could you make just one thing clear*

*Will you promise me that you will always love me?
Promise me that we will never part
Promise that you will save me for redemption
Somewhere in the trash bin of your heart*

Phish (cont'd from page 1)

In that time, the Tri-Community Recycling facility of Fort Fairfield successfully survived still another test by handling an estimated 100 tons of recyclables that were collected. In this case, having a facility located nearby certainly made the process easier. It was reported that cleanup took only about a week's time before the site returned to normal.

The Phish concert repeats successfully the practice of recycling at large events in Maine. There are obviously other such opportunities since there are now so many large-scale gatherings in the state. Nearly every community has it's own large gathering. Whether it's an Egg Festival, Clam Festival, Harvest Festival, Lobsterfest, Parade, or the 24 agricultural fairs and numerous other celebrations. Keep recycling in mind throughout the event's planning process. For help organizing recycling at your communities large gathering contact us at 1-800-662-4545

Phish Concert Recycling/MSW (in tons)

Cardboard.....	2.42	Wood.....	5.46
Containers.....	8.75	Glass.....	11.00 (est)
MSW.....	326.75		

HHW Money is Available . . .

The Waste Management & Recycling Program is accepting applications for cost-sharing support related to the collection and management of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW). The application for reimbursement forms were mailed to all municipal offices on September 3rd. The grants furnish financial assistance, along with on going technical support, for the proper management of unwanted and unused HHW products.

The 121st session of the Legislature passed Private and Special Laws 2003, Chapter 30, which made available approximately \$400,000 in grant funds to assist municipalities and other public entities with the operating expenses of publicly offered household hazardous waste management programs, with a priority given to regional programs.

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Maine Recycles Week *(cont'd from page 1)*

After five years of celebrating Maine Recycles Week, there has been little noticeable change in the habits of many. Despite the hard work of many individuals and many changes to programs, the statewide statistics have averaged out with little change and always somewhat less than our legislative goal of 50%.

This year moves beyond awareness. Activities should recognize success; however it is about time to throw down the gauntlet to get more involved in "the right thing to do". If there are questions about: how; when; and where, then they should again be answered by campaigns to make everyone feel at ease about recycling. If there are those with reservations, the goal of each and every campaign should be to show how easy it is to recycle by recognizing those who do. The message or education must be taken to the entire community and not just to schools.

As part of Maine Recycles Week, the State Planning Office has always asked to be notified of scheduled activities. It should be noted that interest about what is being done in the communities to promote recycling, like recycling itself, is not limited to a week in November. If presentations are being made or activities by recycling committees are requested or planned, we would like to know what is going on in your community. Have you used a recycling education kit lately? How successful was it? Has someone talked about recycling to a school group, civic organization, or maybe a meeting of senior citizens or business professionals? Please drop a note to Bruce White, State Planning Office, Station #38, Augusta, Maine 04330, or an e-mail to bruce.white@maine.gov. We would like to hear from you for a better reading of our State recycling barometer.

For those requesting MRW 2003 posters or with questions about Maine Recycles Week, please do not hesitate to call, 1-800-662-4545, or (207)287-8053. There is also a wealth of information, including this newsletter in electronic format, at www.recyclemaine.com/mrw

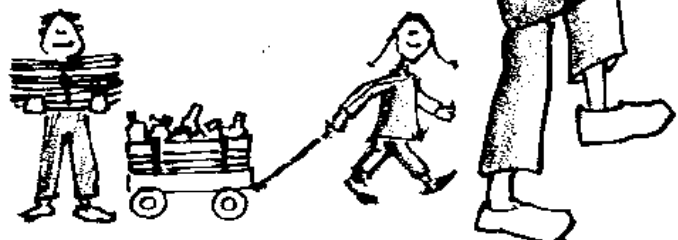
The Maine Recycles Week 2003 Poster has been sent for printing!

It features the winning MRW 2002 poster by Bethanie of Bangor's Fourteenth Street School and lists this year's sponsors. Posters will be mailed to schools and municipalities. If you need additional copies for your local campaign, please order them by calling 207-287-8053 or online at www.recyclemaine.com



2003 Maine Recycles Week Poster!

Get Your MRW
Bookmarks! 287-8053



**OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM
MAINE RECYCLES WEEK 2003 POSTER CONTEST**

Please print or type.

All entries must be postmarked by November 21, 2003.

Title of Poster: _____

Student's Grade Level: _____

Student's Name: _____

Sponsoring Teacher: _____

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

(Please include town and zip code)

School District: _____

THIS FORM MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE BACK OF EVERY ENTRY. IT MUST BE STAPLED AND FACING OUT SO IT CAN BE EASILY READ.

Return to: Bruce A. White, Maine State Planning Office, 38 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0038; (p) 207-287-8053 or 1-800-662-4545.

HHW Money (Cont'd from page 2)

Previous grants programs have focused on providing safe storage infrastructure to public facilities looking to collect and separate these hard to manage wastes. This is a new and ambitious state initiative with several goals and objectives:

- To provide an effective level of funding, and cost effectiveness, to eligible parties;
- To be flexible in meeting the needs of the public entities, who are the front line service providers;
- To promote consumer education to achieve a reduction in HHW generated; and,
- To improve access and convenience for Maine residents seeking HHW collection services.



AVCOG HHW Collection (Photo by Carol Fuller, AVCOG)

The program's goal is to improve the well-being and safety of our citizens in their environment. Household hazardous wastes pose a threat to our environment and are a risk to persons in their homes. These wastes can also be harmful to workers in the solid waste industry if mismanaged or disposed of improperly.

These grants are intended to substantially reduce this threat by encouraging the safe and timely removal and management of HHW. An important component of this effort is an aggressive consumer education program about HHW, to assist in reducing the amount of unused and unwanted toxic products tossed into Maine's trash. The grants program is intended to carry from the fall of 2003 through the fall of 2004, subject to the availability of funds. The law requires the legislature to address the matter of establishing an ongoing source of funding for municipal collection of HHW during the second regular session of the 121st legislature, which convenes in January of 2004.

For more information, please contact Sam Morris at 287-8054, Toll free 800-662-4545, by email at Sam.Morris@maine.gov, or visit www.recyclemaine.com/grants.

Governor Appoints New Director

On September 2nd, Governor Baldacci administered the oath of office to the State Planning Office's new Director, Martha Freeman. The Governor says that Martha brings a wealth of experience in policy development and in the legislative process. He stressed her role as top policy advisor to him during the campaign and her familiarity with the Administration's policy positions. He said she was looking forward to working with the office, "which is ably staffed."

Jane Lincoln, Baldacci's Chief of Staff, continued by saying that SPO is the policy arm of the Governor and they want to strengthen it. She sees the office as the think tank of policy development and the office and Martha will be central to this Administration's policy development.



New SPO Director is sworn in on September 2nd, 2003.

Martha Freeman was Deputy Chief of Staff for Governor Baldacci. In this capacity, she focused on management issues and such policy matters as community colleges, education initiatives and municipal restructuring. Prior to joining the administration, Freeman served as Director of the Maine Legislature's Office of Policy and Legal Analysis and as a Special Assistant to the Attorney General. She has also been a public policy and management consultant, a counselor in private practice, and an author writing about the environment. Freeman has a law degree from the University of Maine School of Law and a master's degree from the University of Maine Graduate Program in Clinical Counseling.

Welcome aboard Martha Freeman!

**Maine State Planning Office
Waste Management & Recycling Program
38 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0038
1-800-662-4545 or 207-287-8050
www.recyclemaine.com**

Mark Your Calendar!

“Hazardous Waste and Special Waste”, Transfer Station Operators Training Program

Sept 15th - Augusta Civic Center, Community Drive, Augusta

Sept 17th - Spactacular Events Center, 395 Griffin Road, Bangor

For more information, contact: Sandy Moody, 207-287-7751, sandy.j.moody@maine.gov

New Hampshire Solid Waste Conference

Sept 24th - The New Hampshire National Guard Armory, Manchester, NH

Diverse solid waste topics representing aspects of local, regional, and national perspectives.

For more information, contact: Pierce Rigrod, 603-271-3713, prigrod@des.state.nh.us

Northeast Recycling Council Fall Conference

October 21 & 22 - Hotel Northampton, Northampton, Massachusetts

For more information, visit www.nerc.org, 802-254-3636, maryann@nerc.org

Maine Resource Recovery Association's Annual Meeting

October 23 8:00 am - 4:30 pm - Waterville Holiday Inn.

For more information, contact: John Albertini, 207-942-6772, mrra.john@verizon.com

Maine Recycles Week

November 8th - 15th

Celebrate Maine Recycles Week in your community!

For more information, contact: Bruce White, 207-287-8053, Bruce.White@maine.gov

